

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 4, and 7. The claims are as follows:

1. (Currently amended) In a telephone system of the common channel signaling and control type having signaling network means for handling switching and control signals separate from voice signal, said signaling network means adapted to respond to and handle calls from wireless subscribers pertaining to requests for services, said signaling network means including means for providing transaction signals in response to calls to the telephone system by a wireless subscriber requesting service, said signaling network means further including message server means which includes:

means for creating message signals, which are compatible with the signaling network means and service nodes, in response to said transaction signals, said means for creating message signals not being comprised by a service node of the network;

message router means connected to said means for creating said message signals for routing said message signals to one or more interfaces for service nodes;

means for selecting at least one of the service nodes to process message signals by performing arbitration and prioritization among the various service nodes of the network in order to provide requested services to the wireless subscribers; and

means for connecting at least one service node to the message server means in order to convey service provided by the service nodes to said wireless subscriber in response to said subscriber call requesting service.

2. (Original) The telephone system according to claim 1 wherein said message server means further includes message handler means for sending and/or receiving transaction signals to and/or from the signaling network means.

3. (Original) The telephone system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said message router means includes means for sending and/or receiving message signals to said means for connecting at least one selected service node to the message server means.

4. (Currently amended) ~~The telephone system according to claim 1~~ In a telephone system of the common channel signaling and control type having signaling network means for handling switching and control signals separate from voice signal, said signaling network means adapted to respond to and handle calls from wireless subscribers pertaining to requests for services, said signaling network means including means for providing transaction signals in response to calls to the telephone system by a wireless subscriber requesting service, said signaling network means further including message server means which includes:

means for creating message signals, which are compatible with the signaling network means and service nodes, in response to said transaction signals;

message router means connected to said means for creating said message signals for routing said message signals to one or more interfaces for service nodes;

means for selecting at least one of the service nodes to process message signals by performing arbitration and prioritization among the various service nodes of the network in order to provide requested services to the wireless subscribers; and

means for connecting at least one service node to the message server means in order to convey service provided by the service nodes to said wireless subscriber in response to said subscriber call requesting service, wherein said message server means includes node selector means for routing message signals to service nodes based on the nature of the service requested by the wireless subscriber and the location of the wireless subscriber originating the requesting call and said signaling network means further includes means for validating the wireless subscriber.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The telephone system according to claim 1, wherein said message server means includes service node message handler means for communicating said message signals to and from node interface means of one or more service nodes.

7. (Original) A telephone system as described in claim 6, wherein said node interface means to interconnect said service nodes with the message server means includes transaction information manager means for further processing said message signals.

8. (Currently amended) In a telephone system of the common channel signaling and control type having signaling network means for handling switching and control signals separate from voice signals, said signaling network means adapted to respond to and handle calls from and to wireless subscribers pertaining to requests for services, a method for providing requested services

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from service nodes to wireless subscribers comprising the steps of:

creating transaction signals by the signaling network means in response to calls from wireless subscribers;

conveying said transaction signals to a message server means;

creating, processing and routing message signals by the message server means in response to said transaction signals including performing arbitration between various services available from service nodes in response to message signals to determine which service nodes are to handle requests for services, said creating the message signals not being performed by a service node of the network;

connecting one or more service nodes to the message server means in response to said message signals; and

routing responses from said one or more service nodes to the signaling network to provide the requested services to the wireless subscribers.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said step of creating, processing and routing said message signals includes:

sending and receiving said transaction signals to and from the signaling network and the message server means;

sending and receiving said message signals resulting from the transaction signals to and from an interface to the service node;

selecting a node interface from a plurality of node interfaces; and

communicating said message signals to and from the service node interface.